



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Nutritional Epidemiology, Faculty of Environment



Salary: Grade 7 (£39,355 – £46,735 p.a. depending on experience)

Reporting to: Prof Janet Cade

Reference: ENVFS1145

Fixed term at 60%FTE for 27 months from 15th September 2025 to complete specific time limited work.

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements

Research Fellow in Nutritional Epidemiology

School of Food Science and Nutrition, Faculty of Environment

Overview of the Role

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in nutritional epidemiology or public health related research? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive universities?

We are seeking an experienced Research Fellow to join the Nutritional Epidemiology Group (NEG) to support an exciting new project: Evaluation of the School Fruit and Veg Scheme. The project will find out whether the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme (SFVS) supports higher intakes of fruits and vegetables in children.

This project involves a multi-disciplinary team across two Universities: the University of Leeds and Northumbria University. Participants from the North East and Yorkshire and Humber will be included. Fieldworkers will visit 40 schools in total across the two regions to observe and record what children eat during the school day. Children in Reception/Year 1/Year 2 will be included. Parents will record intake at home. Children from Year 2 will be followed up in Year 3 when they are no longer eligible for the SFVS to see if things change. Quantitative and qualitative data will be collected through interviews and focus groups. A Research Fellow will also be appointed at Northumbria University to focus on data collection in the North East. The two research fellows will work closely together.

You will have a PhD (or near to completion) in Nutritional Epidemiology or a closely allied discipline together with a strong background in nutritional epidemiology or public health related research. You will also have a positive approach to collaborative research, with experience in quantitative analysis of large datasets using statistical software. In addition, you will have excellent time management, planning, and verbal and written communication skills, with an aptitude for working with diverse team members on multi-disciplinary projects.



Main duties and responsibilities

- Leading on participant recruitment: schools, parents/carers and children in Reception/ Year 1 and Year 2, liaising with the team at Northumbria University; monitoring recruitment of participants ensuring targets for child age, gender, deprivation level and ethnicity are met.
- Preparing ethics application documents and organising, undertaking and analysing a small pilot test of methods planned.
- Supporting the Project Management Group and recruiting PPIE team members in collaboration with our Col PPIE representatives. Working with the PPIE team on specific public engagement activity to promote the project and provide feedback and recommendations.
- Developing a logic model to drive the data collection tools.
- Recruiting and training local fieldworkers and arranging for fieldwork in schools.
- Collecting food environment data in schools and interview school staff.
- Supporting collection of online food data using myfood24 and other data as needed;
- Working with the Northumbria based Research Fellow and project PI (Prof Cade) and co-Is (Prof Defeyter (Northumbria), Dr Greenwood, Dr Martin, Dr Evans (Leeds)) to ensure smooth running of the project
- Leading on data analysis. Exploring the contribution of the SFVS to average daily consumption of fruit and vegetables in reception/Y1/Y2 in portions/grams. Secondary outcomes will explore the contribution of SFVS to overall nutrient intakes; differences between school and non-school days. Exploring changes between Year 2 and Year 3. In collaboration with Dr Martin, explore the cost of delivering the scheme. Subgroup analyses by meal event, socio-economic status and age/gender will be undertaken. Multi-level models will be used to allow for clustering by school, class and pupil;
- Undertaking data collection using an online survey only, from a wider geographical area. Recruiting schools in relation to the implementation, strengths and weaknesses of the SFVS;
- Generating and pursuing independent and original research ideas in the appropriate subject area;
- Developing research objectives and proposals and contributing to setting the direction of the research project and team including preparing proposals for funding in collaboration with colleagues;



- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and to relate such evaluations appropriately to your own work;
- Preparing papers for publication in leading international journals and disseminating research results through other recognised forms of output;
- Working both independently and also as part of a larger team of researchers, engaging in knowledge-transfer activities where appropriate and feasible;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues as appropriate;
- Contributing to the training of both undergraduate and postgraduate students, including assisting with the supervision of projects in areas relevant to the project.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

Qualifications and skills

Essential

- A PhD (or near completion - i.e. the initial thesis needs to have been handed in at the point of application), in Nutritional Epidemiology or a closely allied discipline;
- A strong background in nutritional epidemiology or public health related research;
- Experience in quantitative analysis of large datasets using statistical software;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines, manage competing demands and work effectively under pressure without close support;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentations to a range of audiences;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

Desirable

- A proven track record of peer-reviewed publications in high impact factor journals;
- Experience of qualitative research techniques;



- Experience of research in primary schools and families with young children in the UK;
- Experience of dietary assessment research using online tools;
- Experience of multi-level model analysis.

How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by **23.59** (UK time) on the advertised closing date.

Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

Professor Janet Cade, Professor in Nutritional Epidemiology

Email: j.e.cade@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Please note: If you are not a British or Irish citizen, from 1 January 2021 you will require permission to work in the UK. This will normally be in the form of a visa but, if you are an EEA/Swiss citizen and resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, this may be your passport or status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Please note that this post may be suitable for sponsorship under the Skilled Worker visa route but first-time applicants might need to qualify for salary concessions. For more information please visit: www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa

For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. For more information please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/global-talent>

Find out more about the [Faculty of Environment](#).

Find out more about the [School of Food Science and Nutrition](#)



Find out more about our [Research and associated facilities](#)

Find out more about [Equality in the Faculty](#)

Working at Leeds

We are a campus based community and regular interaction with campus is an expectation of all roles in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements. To find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area visit our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

Our University

As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life. We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education. Within the School of Food Science and Nutrition we are dedicated to diversifying our community and we welcome the unique contributions that individuals can bring, and particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, those who belong to a minority ethnic community; people who identify as LGBT+; and disabled people. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

The Faculty of Environment has received a prestigious Athena SWAN silver award from [Advance HE](#), the national body that promotes equality in the higher education sector. This award represents the combined efforts of all schools in the Faculty and shows the positive actions we have taken to ensure that our policies, processes and ethos all promote an equal and inclusive environment for work and study.

Candidates with disabilities

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at disclosure@leeds.ac.uk.

Criminal record information

This post requires a basic criminal record check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and any equivalent overseas authorities where relevant. The successful candidate will be required to give consent for the University to check their criminal record status and all applicants must declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending



Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

